

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T PARIS 11213

EXDIS

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH (S/AS)

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM ENRG EEC
SUBJ: US-EURATOM RENEGOTIATIONS: FRENCH POSITION

1. I HAVE RECEIVED RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED BETWEEN GISCARD AND SCHMIDT ON SUNDAY, APRIL 2, AT RAMBOUILLET. GISCARD'S APPROACH TO SCHMIDT WAS OF THE NATURE THAT THE FRG SHOULD JOIN THE GOF IN STANDING UP TO THE US BY NOT AGREEING TO RENEGOTIATIONS, TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LAUNCH EUROPEAN INDEPENDENCE FROM THE US ON NUCLEAR SUPPLIES AND SERVICES. SCHMIDT APPARENTLY REFUSED TO JOIN GISCARD ON THIS ISSUE AT THIS TIME BECAUSE HE WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER MUCH MORE SERIOUS ISSUES WITH THE US AND COULDN'T AFFORD GETTING INTO THIS "SMALL" PROBLEM AT THIS TIME.

2. MY UNDERSTANDING, WHICH I BELIEVE TO BE WELL FOUNDED, IS THAT THE DATE OF APRIL 9 (THE 30-DAY MARK)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 11213 051432Z

WILL BE ALLOWED TO PASS AND THAT A FEW DAYS LATER (PERHAPS APRIL 12) AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED WITHIN THE EC TO ENTER INTO RENEGOTIATIONS. THUS, THE HEADS OF STATE MEETING APRIL 7-8 WOULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT AND THE FOLLOWING DAYS WOULD BE DEVOTED TO REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT OF THE RESPONSE TO THE US. IN THIS SCENARIO, FRANCE DOES NOT BOW TO THE US FIXED DATE

OF APRIL 9, BUT DEMONSTRATES ITS INDEPENDENCE BY LETTING THAT DATE PASS. THE RESPONSE TO THE US FROM EURATOM WILL AGREE TO RENEGOTIATE AND CARRY A NUMBER OF CONDITIONS, COMPLAINTS, ETC.

3. I BELIEVE WE HAVE AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND THE EXPECTED PLAY DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. I ALSO SEE THIS AS A PRELIMINARY VIEW OF FINAL NEGOTIATIONS AND THE FRENCH EFFORT TO LAUNCH THE EUROPEAN CIVILIAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY INDEPENDENT OF US CONTROL. I THINK US AND EUROPEAN NON-PROLIFERATION GOALS VIS-A-VIS THIRD COUNTRIES WILL BE VERY SIMILAR; THE INDEPENDENCE IS INTENDED TO MAKE SEPARATE DECISIONS POSSIBLE, NOT NECESSARILY TO TAKE AT EVERY TURN A SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT COURSE OF ACTION.

4. ON THE ASPECT OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PRESS COMMENTS, WE ARE SENDING BY SEPARATE CABLE THE FIGARO ARTICLE OF APRIL 5 WHICH WE SEE AS THE BEGINNING OF CONTINUING COMMENTS ALONG THIS LINE. UNDOUBTEDLY, WASHINGTON WILL BE PRESSED TO COMMENT ON THE ISSUE. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE LESS THE USG SAYS ON THIS ISSUE, THE BETTER. THE US LEGISLATION IS FAIRLY CLEAR; THE EC IS CONTINUING ITS DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT; OUR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON RENEGOTIATION HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED. WE SHOULD GO NO FURTHER THAN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 11213 051432Z

THIS, AND ABOVE ALL MAKE NO RPT NO ANNOUNCEMENTS OF "CUTOFFS".

5. PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED ON DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE AND RESULTS OF INQUIRIES.
HARTMAN

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NNN

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